

In Memoriam,

John Magee.

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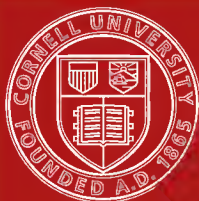
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# MEMORIAL OF JOHN MAGEE.





ORDER OF EXERCISES

ON THE OCCASION OF THE UNVEILING OF THE

Magee Monument



WELLSBORO, PA.,

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1886

AT ONE O'CLOCK P. M.

# Order of Exercises.

*At 12:30 P. M. the procession will form at the Court House, and headed by the Independent Band, of Wellsboro, will march down the North side of Main street to Coles House, up South side of Main street and around Public Square to Monument.*

## EXERCISES AT MONUMENT.

COMMENCING AT ONE P. M.

*March, . . . . . 12th Regiment Band.*

*Prayer, . . . . . Rev. Geo. D. Meigs.*

*Star Spangled Banner, . . . . . Morris Run Band.*

*Letter of Presentation to the County of Tioga, . . Hon.  
H. W. Williams.*

*Address of Acceptance, . . . . . Hon. M. F. Elliott.*

*Unreiling of Monument—Bands playing "Hail to the  
Chief."*

*Address—"John Magee and Tioga County," . . Hon.  
Daniel Beach.*

*German Miner's Song, . . . . . Antrim Band.*

*Address, . . . . . Hon. Geo. B. Bradley.*

*Closing Benediction, . . . . . Rev. A. C. Shaw.*

# Officers of the Day.

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## PRESIDENT.

Hon. Henry W. Williams.

## VICE-PRESIDENTS.

*Antrim*—Wm. Howell, James Pollock, E. G. Drake, J. E. Fish.

*Corning*—C. C. B. Walker, S. T. Hayt, G. R. Brown, Alex. Olcott,  
H. A. Horning, L. C. Kingsbury, C. G. Denison.

*Elkland*—C. L. Pattison, C. H. Benedict.

*Elmira*—Thomas Farrer.

*Fall Brook*—S. Heron, F. H. Wells.

*Lawrenceville*—J. M. Bosard, L. Darling, Jr.

*Morris Run*—W. S. Nearing, T. B. Anderson.

*Nelson*—J. Bottom, M. F. Cass.

*Stokesdale*—E. G. Schieffelin.

*Tioga*—F. E. Smith, R. P. H. McAllaster, John J. Davis, C. B. Farr.

*Wellsboro*—Mrs. S. X. Billings, Hon. H. Sherwood,  
J. L. Robinson.

## CHAPLAINS.

Rev. Geo. D. Meigs, Rev. A. C. Shaw, Rev. M. E. Lynott.

## SECRETARIES.

Walter Sherwood, David Cameron.

## TREASURER.

Alexander Pollock.

## COMMITTEE ON DESIGN.

#### COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENTS.

H. W. Williams,      Walter Sherwood,      Mrs. S. X. Billings,  
                         John W. Bailey,                      M. F. Elliott,  
F. K. Wright,              J. B. Niles,              J. Harrison.

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#### COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION.

H. J. Eaton,      John Wilson,      T. W. Evans,      John Smith.

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#### RECEPTION COMMITTEE.

F. K. Wright,      J. B. Niles,      Anton Hardt,      J. W. Bailey,  
T. B. Fields,      L. Harrison,      Hugh Young,  
Walter Sherwood,      Geo. C. Bowen.

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#### MARSHAL.

Daniel Bacon, of Wellsboro.

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#### ASSISTANT MARSHALS.

Joseph Lodge, James Ketchum, Geo. Snedden, N. F. Marvin,  
Morris Peters, James Heron, of Antrim.

J. White, J. D. Campbell, of Cowanesque Valley.

C. K. Minor, F. S. Bragg, of Corning.

F. H. Adams, Samuel Wilkins, of Tioga.

Robert Russell, A. N. Williams, of Fall Brook.

H. H. Blair, Z. W. Baker, of Wellsboro.











MEMORIAL

OF

JOHN MAGEE.

EMBRACING A SKETCH OF HIS LIFE; A DISCOURSE DELIVERED  
ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF HIS DEATH; NOTICES OF  
FUNERAL SERVICES, &c., &c.

BY

REV. F. S. HOWE,

PASTOR OF PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, WATKINS, NEW YORK.

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NEW YORK:  
CHARLES SCRIBNER & COMPANY.

1870.

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## NOTE.

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IT has been the aim of this Memorial, to conform, at least, in a reasonable degree, to its subject. As one whose tastes were plain; whose ideas were positive; and whose purposes were intensely practical,—to him, either flattery, or extravagant representations of any kind, would have been unacceptable. The incidents of such a life as his, have their own intrinsic interest, and need no embellishment.

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## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

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JOHN MAGEE, son of Henry and Sarah M. Magee, was born at the Irish settlement, near Easton, Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, September 3, 1794.

His parents came to this country from County Antrim, in the North of Ireland, about the year 1784. The people of this settlement were characterized by their habits of industry, integrity, and their adherence to the Protestant faith of their fathers.

Henry Magee was a descendant from an ancient family of note, often mentioned, in the early history of Ireland. He was a first cousin of the late Rev. William Magee, D.D., Protestant Archbishop of Dublin, who is extensively known as an author. In

1805, John, with his parents, removed to Groveland, Livingston County, N. Y., where his father engaged successfully in farming; but through the failure of a neighbor, whose paper he had generously indorsed to aid him in a time of extremity, his own property passed under the sheriff's hammer, and he was left to commence his efforts to provide for a large family, without resources. And, in the mean time, a great affliction was experienced in the death of the mother, Mrs. Sarah Mulhollon Magee; who died, October 12, 1805, at Groveland. By this bereavement, her children were deprived of the tender care, counsels, and prayers, of a mother who exhibited great faithfulness, and many amiable and exemplary traits of character; to whom the subject of this Memorial was indebted in no ordinary degree. This he often acknowledged; speaking of her in terms of

great respect and affection. She was a member of the Presbyterian Church, and a firm believer in those great doctrines of the Westminster Confession, which her fathers, in the Old Country, have cherished with such unwavering attachment.

In 1808, the family removed to Michigan, and settled in the vicinity of Detroit. The disturbed state of the country immediately preceding the breaking out of the war, added to the difficulties and privations incident to a residence in a new country, sparsely settled; especially, as they were located upon the frontier, and were thus exposed to many perils. Following the example of his father, who had entered the army, John enlisted at Detroit, in May, 1812, in the Rifle Company of Captain A. De Quendra, for twelve months. This company went immediately into active service; had several skirmishes with the Indians; and

took part in the battle of Brownstown, on the 8th of August of that year. His company, belonging to the command of General Hull, was surrendered, with his army, to the British forces under General Brock, on the 16th of the same month. He remained a prisoner, on parole, until January, 1813, when he was sent, with the captured troops, to St. Catherines, C. W., and thence across the country to Fort George. In the following month of March, obtaining his release, he joined Major Cyrenius Chapin's command of mounted rangers. In the mean time, Forts Erie and George had been taken by the American forces, under General Dearborn; and the British army, in their retreat, had scattered their supplies over the country. Major Chapin's command were engaged in gathering up these supplies, and in making other foraging expeditions, in the region lying between the lakes Erie and



Ontario. He was again taken prisoner, at the battle of Beaver Dams, near St. Catharines, in June, 1813. Finding his confinement excessively irksome, he determined to escape; and though dissuaded by his commanding officer from making the attempt, he obtained possession of his horse, and set out at full speed, across the lines, toward Fort George, under a shower of bullets from the guard. On the way a small boy begged so earnestly to be permitted to ride behind him and take his chances for escape, that he allowed him to do so; but the poor lad was killed by the fire of the sentinels; his own clothes were riddled by their balls; his horse was wounded and fell under him, though not until he had reached General Dearborn's pickets; and gaining the fort, with but slight injury, he reported to the officer in command the disaster at Beaver Dams. That officer did not fail to avail himself of

the courage and address which this young soldier had exhibited. He was immediately appointed as a messenger, to carry dispatches for the government between Fort Niagara and Washington, and to points along the frontier. This duty, attended as it was by many hardships and perils, he discharged with a degree of skill and endurance rarely equaled. On one occasion, when dispatches of great importance were forwarded by him to the Department of War at Washington, he continued in the saddle for forty-eight hours; procuring fresh horses, from time to time, until he reached Northumberland, Pa.; when, becoming completely exhausted, he obtained a reliable person to proceed to Washington with the papers, and to obtain the requisite answers; which, as soon as they reached him, he conveyed to General Wilkinson, then in command. On arriving at headquarters, the general refused to believe that

he could possibly have been to Washington in the short time that had elapsed, until he had received and read the answers to his communications;—when, eyeing John with astonishment, he mentally expressed his admiration, and proceeding to his military chest, he presented to him five hundred dollars in gold. This money *was not made* “*the germ of his subsequent fortune*” (as has been repeatedly stated), but was generously given, every dollar of it, to poor widows, with needy children, whose husbands had been killed by the Indians. Leaving the service of the government, in the spring of 1816, John, in company with his brother Jefferson, made the journey from Buffalo to Bath, Steuben County, on foot; their road, for a good part of the distance, being only a path designated by marked trees. His arrival upon the ground where his subsequent labors and successes were to be witnessed,

was not attended by any circumstances of special encouragement. It was not his purpose, however, to waste any time, waiting for "something to turn up;" or for some lucky opening to sudden wealth, by easy speculation. His first opportunity of employment, was the offer of a job of cutting cordwood, for Captain William Bull, at twenty-five cents per cord, which he accepted,—walking, daily, some two miles to the woods, and putting up his two cords per day. His work, alone, in the woods, was enlivened by occasional hunting. Being a skillful gunner, he kept his trusty rifle at hand; and often found opportunity to make good use of it. Some three years previous to his decease, he requested a friend to accompany him to the spot, known as the "Deer Lick" (on the lands of A. Haverling), from which he had cut the entire growth of timber, in 1816, but which he found again covered

with young trees. "Here," said he to his friend, "I cut one hundred cords of wood; and hereabouts, at different times, I must have shot at least one hundred deer."

It is within the recollection of persons, still residing in the vicinity, that, standing in the barn on the Haverling property, at three several times, he shot down a deer in an adjoining buckwheat field, which was then often visited by that noble denizen of the forest. Pleasant memories of times when excellent venison and buckskin were plenty in Bath, are still cherished by those whose indebtedness to his unerring marksmanship was often acknowledged. A hunter who ranked as a "dead shot," and who understood "trapping," was more likely to be appreciated in times when the wolves from the neighboring hills rendered the night hideous with their howling, and made terrible havoc of the flocks of the early set-

tlers. In a single night, these animals killed forty-three, out of forty-eight, of the flock of Mr. Thomas Faulkner; and about the like number, on another occasion, on the farm of Adam Haverling. It was also of frequent occurrence, that the settler's young pigs were carried off by the bears; while the foxes and minks made raids upon the poultry.

It might be instructive to young men and young ladies of the present day, in the way of comparison, to estimate the value of a dollar, and the expediency of any very free indulgence in luxury or fashionable outfit, in times when two bushels of wheat of the best quality were given in exchange for one yard of red ribbon of a very narrow pattern.

A resident of the vicinity of Bath, who saw that barter actually made with the merchant, has lived to see wheat raised on the same farm sold for three dollars per bushel,

which was then rated at twenty-five cents. The margin between the state of things in Steuben County at that day, and what is now enjoyed by its citizens, has been filled up by the efforts of men, whose hard toil, economy, and sagacity are now matter of history; and in which the subject of this Memorial bore an honorable part.

It had been a result of the removals of his father's family, the want of schools, and other privations met in the newly-settled state of the country, that he had entered upon the work of life almost destitute of education. This deficiency he deeply felt, and applied himself very earnestly to supply. It is well remembered, by persons of his own age, that while engaged in his job of cutting wood, and subsequently, he evinced his regard for the example and instructions of his pious mother, by regularly attending the Presbyterian Church, under

the ministry of the Rev. David Higgins, on every Sunday morning; and that he, as regularly, employed the afternoon of that day in reading; endeavoring to gain some practical knowledge of the branches of a common English education. If this practice bore, in part, a secular aspect, it will, nevertheless, be acknowledged to have been safer, and more commendable, than the practice of idle lounging and the open indulgence of immoral habits on that day, which are too often witnessed in our own times. And it furnished indications of that spirit of self-reliance and self-discipline, and of that vigilant improvement of time, by which his subsequent life was characterized.

During the years 1816-17, he engaged in farming with his brother-in-law, Adam Haverling,—part of the time, at a compensation of eight dollars per month.

This employment not proving very con-



genial, or very satisfactory in its results, he engaged, for a short time, in the purchase and slaughter of animals for the market. In the spring of 1818, he was on the point of setting out to try his fortunes in the "Far West" (people at that day, knew where that was), when a canvass for the office of Constable and Collector occurring, at the suggestion of friends he became a candidate, and was elected. He performed the duties of this office with such fidelity and ability as to give very great satisfaction to the people, and was re-elected the following year. Many reminiscences are still related, by old residents of the county, of his vigilance, courage, and tact, in dealing with tough cases of tax-payers, absconding debtors, and "scamps" of various grades: equipped in fox-skin cap, then in fashion, and shaggy "top-coat," dashing on horseback, at a lightning speed, through

the woods, where the obstructions of pine roots, stones, and logs, rendered the road perilous; disdaining the severest cold, and regardless of fatigue or exposure. While thus building up, what might truly be called, an "iron constitution," he was, also, gaining the acquaintance and confidence of the people. In 1819, he was appointed to the office of Deputy Sheriff, under George McLure, the duties of which he continued to discharge till 1821. In the year 1820, he was appointed Marshal for the county of Steuben, to take the census. On the sixth of January of the same year, he was united in marriage with Miss Sarah McBurney, daughter of Hon. Thomas McBurney, then County Judge. This lady possessed many natural endowments, the advantages of a thorough education, and such amiable and excellent qualities as fitted her to become the companion and helper of one who was

already engaged in such important public duties. This devoted wife was removed by death, on the fifteenth of May, 1828, leaving no children.

The arduous and responsible duties of marshal, he performed generally on foot; traversing a territory which then extended to Ontario County, on the north, to Livingston, on the west, and to Tompkins, on the east; embracing an area more than double the present limits of the county. In this work, his remarkable powers of memory were fully developed. It was his practice, simply to take the names of the inhabitants, making no record of answers to the required questions, but carrying them, with unfailing exactness, in his mind, until he returned home in the evening, when the ready pen of one to whose scholarly abilities he was often indebted transferred them to the return books. Upon the com-

pletion of his report, he received the public thanks of the authorities, for the remarkable faithfulness and accuracy of his returns, accompanied by a handsome set of table-silver. In the year 1821, the office of High Sheriff becoming vacant, by the death of Henry Schriver, he was appointed in his place. In 1823, when a change in the constitution of the State took place, the office of High Sheriff, which had previously been conferred by a council of appointment, became elective; and he was then chosen by the people to that office, and served till 1826. Probably no other man in the county was in possession of such thorough knowledge of the territory, and such general acquaintance with the people. His recollection of localities, as well as of the faces of individuals, was rarely equaled. Within the last three years, he has repeatedly referred to a particular elm-tree, still stand-

ing within the limits of the village of Watkins, which marked the boundary line between the counties of Stenben and Tompkins, under which he had more than once stood guard, to watch the movements of some one who had motives for crossing the bounds, at rather unseasonable hours.

During his term of office, much excitement and indignation was caused among the people by the existence of a gang of desperadoes in the vicinity of Hornellsville, by whom thefts and many other outrages, and at length an alleged murder, were committed. After many attempts to arrest or disperse them, the sheriff felt himself compelled to call out a military force, for the purpose of surrounding the locality and seizing the ruffians. A company of mounted men, under the command of Captain William Bull, of Bath, were ordered to proceed to the place; where, after the fatigue and

exposure of several days and nights, constantly on duty, several arrests were made, the gang was broken up, and a ringleader named Douglas was arraigned for murder. This man was afterward tried and convicted. His execution took place at Bath, on the last Friday of April, 1825, and attracted an immense crowd of people. The measures taken by the sheriff to preserve order,—the coolness and propriety with which every part of his duty was performed on that occasion,—fully justified the confidence which the people had reposed in him, as a capable, considerate, trustworthy officer. Mention has repeatedly been made, by competent persons, of his leniency and personal kindness in the discharge of his duties, to such extent as was compatible with fidelity to the public trusts confided to him.

While discharging these duties, he engaged, with characteristic public spirit, in

establishing lines of mail coaches between the principal towns of southwestern New York and Harrisburg, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington. In this branch of business he was associated with Judge Cook, of Bath, and others. In the management of these lines of stages, which were of great public utility at that period, he became strongly impressed with the importance of railroad facilities, in the promotion of which he subsequently took so conspicuous a part. In the year 1826, Mr. Magee was brought forward, by his fellow-citizens, as a candidate for Congress; at which time he issued a printed address to the people of the district, in which a full and frank statement of his views, on various questions then before the people, was given. He was elected by a very considerable majority; and was again a successful candidate for the same office. In a second address to his

constituents, issued in 1828, he took earnest ground on the subject of the tariff; presenting an array of facts, to show what modifications in the existing laws were needed in order to equalize their operation, and especially for the protection of the interests of his constituents. During both these terms in Congress, he took a prominent position. General Jackson, who at that time occupied the Presidential chair, regarded him as a man of extraordinary sagacity and soundness of judgment, and made him his confidential friend and adviser. He often consulted him upon important questions, and offered him a seat in his Cabinet, which Mr. Magee, however, declined,—preferring, as he did, the greater freedom of action, and the more favorable opportunity for attention to his own private business, which exemption from such an office would secure.

He was an earnest advocate of integrity



and economy in the administration of the government.

He denounced, in strong terms, every species of corruption, and all squandering of the people's money. He was directly instrumental in the exposure and prevention of fraudulent contracts in the Post-Office Department, by which means a large sum was saved to the government. Whatever he viewed as wrong in policy or corrupt in principle, he fearlessly condemned, whether in his own or the opposite party. Though earnestly attached to the Democratic party, and acting with it to the close of his life, he at times dissented from its course on particular questions, when he deemed its action erroneous. Though opposed to the administration of President Lincoln, he exhibited a generous, patriotic spirit, in his endeavors to aid the government in raising funds; purchasing the securities liberally

himself, and calling upon his fellow-citizens in a published letter to do the same. He also paid liberal sums of money to procure substitutes for men in his employment who had been drafted, and to aid the needy families of soldiers who had lost their lives in the war.

Mr. Magee was married to Arabella Stuart, February twenty-second, 1831, at Washington. This lady, who was his companion during thirty-three years of the most active and successful portion of his life,—an earnest faithful wife,—a tender mother,—died suddenly, of disease of the heart, at Watkins, May sixteenth, 1864. She was a woman of quick discernment, remarkably systematic in the management of her household affairs, and taught her children correct ideas of economy and accuracy in pecuniary transactions, as well as the great duties of religion. She was an earnest member of the Presbyterian

Church, of which she was a liberal supporter, a generous friend to the poor, and a regular contributor to the principal objects of Christian benevolence. She was the mother of ten children, six of whom she had followed to the grave, previous to her own decease.

In 1831, the Steuben County Bank was established. Mr. Magee was chosen its first president, and evinced such skill and fidelity in conducting its affairs, that the directors, by common consent, confided to him its entire management, until his removal from the county; and, indeed, he continued the principal oversight of its affairs, until his death,—a period of thirty-seven years. It is believed that no banking institution in the country has been carried on with more uniform satisfaction to its stockholders and the public; and it has contributed, in no small degree, to the business interests of Steuben County and vicinity.

During his residence at Bath, Mr. Magee cleared and cultivated a large farm; he also engaged in milling, and the manufacture of woolen goods, thus taking part with his fellow-citizens in pursuits which rendered him familiar with their interests in every department. He was one of the projectors of the New York and Erie Railroad; and devoted himself, with characteristic energy, to the carrying forward of that great enterprise; strongly anticipating, as he did, its great influence in the development of the resources of the "Southern tier" counties of the State, and its general utility. He was a contractor for the construction of the road from Binghamton to Hornellsville, a distance of 117 miles,—and also from Hornellsville to Genesee, a distance of 26 miles. And during the early struggles of the stockholders and directors to complete the road, he was their judicious, liberal co-laborer.

And his valuable aid was often acknowledged by them in the strongest terms. In a communication kindly furnished by Hon. J. S. T. Stranahan, of Brooklyn, which is inserted in this volume, a full and valuable statement on this subject will be found. Mr. Magee was also largely instrumental in the building of the Cohocton Valley Railroad, from Corning to Buffalo, a work in which the business interests of the citizens of Steuben County were so immediately concerned. His efforts and personal sacrifices in its behalf, are clearly set forth in a statement prepared by his intimate friend and fellow-citizen, D. Rumsey, Esq., of Bath, which is published herewith. In 1851, he became interested in the Blossburg and Corning Railroad, which was chiefly indebted to his energetic co-operation for its completion. At that period, the coal business had assumed but little importance, in

the Tioga Valley. Mr. Magee made his first purchase of coal lands in 1859, and opened the mines at Fall Brook in the same year. Entering upon this new field with his usual resolution and sagacity, overcoming obstacles which, to other minds, might have appeared insurmountable, he soon found this work growing so rapidly upon his hands, as to demand his constant attention, and his later years were chiefly devoted to its prosecution. The village of Fall Brook, laid out under his direction, contains two hundred and forty dwelling-houses, which, together with store-houses, hotels, offices, shops, mill, and other buildings, make an aggregate of two hundred and fifty buildings; and embraces a population of twenty-five hundred. All the men residing in the place are employed in the mining business, or its necessary adjuncts. These added to the persons employed on the trains carrying coal,

boatmen, boat-builders, and others at the transhipment works, at Corning and Watkins, would make an aggregate probably of six hundred persons employed. The people of Fall Brook have been indebted to Mr. Magee for his liberal aid in the maintenance of schools, and in the support of religious services on the Sabbath. The sale of intoxicating liquors has been prohibited; and a commendable degree of industry, sobriety, and order is exhibited, not often equaled in villages of an equal number of population.

In 1864, Mr. Magee removed his residence from Bath to Watkins, in the county of Schuyler. This he did under a conviction, that due attention to his rapidly extending mining interests, as well as other considerations, demanded it. But not without many regrets; for his attachments to Bath, and to Steuben County, were strong. His

relations to the people of that county had been intimate and cordial. His old neighbors, his early associates in business and in political life, retain kindly memories of his personal friendship, as well as a high regard for his public services.

Upon his removal to Watkins he made extensive purchases of village property, at the head of Seneca Lake, for the location of trestle works, basins, &c., for the delivery and shipment of coal; for the purpose of boat-building; for a steam flouring mill; for dwellings for his workmen; for his own residence, and for other purposes. These buildings and improvements demanded a very large outlay, and furnished employment to a large number of laborers. The business interests of the village received a visible impulse from the commencement of these operations: and these interests, Mr. Magee always manifested a cordial desire to promote



in a substantial manner. He was a liberal contributor for the erection of county buildings; for the purchase and improvement of the cemetery grounds; and for the improvement of streets and highways. He manifested a friendly interest in the religious welfare of the community; and had repeatedly expressed his intention to set aside a suitable sum of money during his life-time for the promotion of religion at large. He had also indicated a purpose to promote education, either by founding an institution of learning, or by the endowment of a department of science in some existing college or seminary. And he was contemplating such an endowment in Hamilton College, in this State, when he was laid aside from all active duties, by the attack of disease which terminated his life.

He was an earnest and faithful attendant upon the Presbyterian Church, of which he

was a member, and manifested a desire to promote its prosperity and usefulness. Soon after he came to Watkins to reside, he expressed his friendly sympathy with the pastor and officers of the church, in the efforts which they had found it necessary to make either to repair and enlarge the church edifice or to erect a new one. The congregation was small, and their pecuniary means were insufficient to enable them to build without assistance. Fully anticipating as he did the rapid growth of the village, and a corresponding increase of the congregation, he often expressed a desire, that such a course should be pursued as should most directly promote their welfare. And after full consultation upon the subject, he first donated the sum of thirty thousand dollars, for the purpose of erecting a church edifice and parsonage house; placing this sum in the hands of the pastor and two of the

officers of the church as a building committee. Subsequently, in consideration of the greatly increased cost of building materials and labor, he gave his consent that this whole sum should be expended upon the church building—the trustees of the church engaging to build a parsonage house within a reasonable time. After an architect had been employed, estimates made, and a plan of the building submitted to Mr. Magee for his approbation, and the work commenced, it was ascertained that in order to carry out the plan and to embrace some improvements which he had suggested, a considerably larger amount of funds would be required. This he generously expressed his willingness to furnish; and during the whole period of the progress of the work, continued to manifest a great personal interest in it; often expressing his desire, that every part of the work should be done in

the most substantial and workmanlike manner; and, from time to time, he indicated a purpose to make improvements upon the grounds, to lay flagstone sidewalks, and to put up an iron fence. During the last year of his life, his attacks of illness had been frequent, and the pressure of business, together with his increasing infirmities, rendered him unable to visit the building, or to give personal attention to it, except rarely. But he was able, only a few days before his last confinement to his room, to examine the new edifice (then near its completion) in every part; and expressed his entire satisfaction with the work, his gratification with the progress made, and then added, with visible emotion, "I have no other desire than that this building should be the means of promoting true religion." This sentiment he had repeatedly expressed during the progress of the work. The deed by which the

church property was conveyed to the "trustees of the First Presbyterian Church, of Watkins," contains careful provisions, designed to secure the permanent maintenance of the worship of God, according to the standard and usages of the Presbyterian Church; guarding against the use of the building for secular lectures, concerts, or any political purposes; providing for the accumulation of a fund for the benefit of the poor, for keeping the building insured, for maintenance of a pastor, for repairs, &c. But the necessary papers, with directions for the appropriation of the additional funds required for finishing the building and making the improvements upon the grounds which he had contemplated, he had not yet completed, when he was laid aside from all business by the attack of disease which terminated his life. It is proper, however, here, to state that his heirs, in a generous spirit, and in

honor of his memory, acting with the counsel of the trustees appointed in his will, appropriated a sum sufficient for the purpose; making the whole amount given by his estate, for the purposes of the church, fifty thousand dollars. A description of this building, furnished by the architect, will be found in another place, and also a photograph of the edifice. A handsomely inscribed marble tablet, bearing the name of John Magee, adorns its front, and reminds the beholder of this noble act of Christian liberality, which is a fitting monument to his memory.

In 1867, Mr. Magee was chosen a delegate to the Constitutional Convention of the State of New York, and his last public services were rendered as a member of that body, though the state of his health at times prevented his attendance upon its sessions. His characteristic regard for pub-

lie economy, and for a wise and honest administration of the affairs of the State, was exhibited in the part he took in its deliberations. It is but just to say that he had no desire to be elected to this position, but yielded to the solicitations of his friends in allowing himself to be nominated. He did not live to see the work of that convention completed, but his influence as a member was conservative and valuable, and his opinions were regarded with respect.

During the last three years of his life, Mr. Magee was afflicted by repeated attacks of illness, of such a nature as to deprive him of rest to a great extent, and injuriously affecting his nervous system, already overtaxed by the increasing cares of business. His activity in giving personal attention to affairs of such magnitude was remarkable—traveling night and day, as he did, to reach distant points where important business en-

agements called him, enduring fatigue which many younger men would be unwilling to encounter. His facility in the dispatch of business, his ready comprehension of the merits of every question of policy to be pursued, and his efforts to secure the greatest economy and the most complete system in the management of business interests, were maintained to the last. In these particulars, he has had few equals. Taking very little time for rest or enjoyment, and anxious as he was to make preparation for the time of retirement from the field, which he often referred to as being near, his last illness came upon him while yet in the harness. To him the long-anticipated period of relief from care and tranquil repose, did not arrive till he found it in the slumber of the grave.

Mr. Magee was a man of sanguine, passionate temperament, which, under the pressure of nervous excitement, exposed him at times



to an apparent irritability, of which he often complained, and which he regretted. In his personal friendships, he was warm and genial. While he was lenient toward those who differed from him in opinion, or who had given him grounds of offense; he was firm in his own convictions and impressions, and from them he was not easily moved. In his intercourse with the people of all classes, he was courteous and affable, and ready always to do a kindness. He had a strong sympathy with young men, who, like himself, were obliged to struggle with privations and to surmount obstacles in the commencement of their career. Many instances of his generous assistance to such persons are remembered with gratitude. Industry, economy, and self-reliance he commended, and was ready to aid; while idleness, wastefulness, and any lack of honesty, integrity, or of straightforward dili-

gence and thrift, met from him only the most severe reprehension. If actual misfortune had overtaken a man, if the real wants of the widow or the orphan reached his knowledge, his heart was ready to respond, and his hand prompt to offer relief.

His last illness was a painful one, but he bore his sufferings with an exemplary measure of patience, and resignation to the will of God. His faculties of speech were paralyzed to such a degree, as to prevent him from communicating with his friends, in his last hours, except to a very limited extent; yet he was enabled to indicate that he was at peace with God and man, that he rested by faith on the Great Redeemer, and anticipated a blessed immortality.

## DEATH, FUNERAL SERVICES, ETC.

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THE death of the Hon. John Magee occurred April 5, 1868. His last hours were tranquil; and his release from the body was, apparently, without pain. The intelligence of the event was rapidly communicated to different parts of the country, and was extensively noticed by the press. Many letters of condolence were received by his family, from friends at a distance, containing the strongest expressions of respect and sympathy.

The new church edifice, then near its completion, was prepared for the funeral occasion; the pulpit, organ, gallery, and doorways being tastefully and appropriately

draped with black cloth, and extra seats provided in the aisles. Notwithstanding the unfavorable state of the weather, a very large concourse of people was present, embracing citizens of Watkins and the neighboring villages, as well as many from abroad, and a general attendance of the miners and other employees of the Fall Brook Coal Co. to the number of four to six hundred; the large church was filled to its utmost capacity, and many were unable to find entrance. A large number of friends, and persons in the employment of the deceased, assembled at his residence, where opportunity was afforded to take leave of his remains. The pallbearers were John Arnot, of Elmira; Asher Tyler, of Elmira; James R. Wilson, of Mansfield, Pa.; Thomas A. Johnson, of Corning; George B. Guinnip, of Watkins; George G. Freer, of Watkins; William Haring, of Watkins, and Daniel Jackson of Watkins.

The services at the church were commenced by the reading of appropriate Scripture selections, by the pastor, Rev. F. S. Howe, followed by the singing of a funeral hymn, commencing—

“How calm and still in death’s embrace,” &c.

The pastor then briefly addressed the assembly in the following words:—

In the dispensation of the Divine will, which has called together this assembly, we are again solemnly reminded of our own mortality. It is with difficulty that we can bring home to ourselves the reality, that a single day may terminate all earthly expectations, and merge the incidents and scenes of our lives in the common history of mankind, to be carried down the stream of time. He who lives for himself merely, fills a narrow space, and is soon forgotten. But he who lives for the permanent good of his fellow-men, and the glory of God, will hold an honored place in the memory of thousands, and his name will never perish.

Friendly hands have borne hither the earthly remains of one, whose active, eventful life has already become historic, and which is suggestive of the spirit of the age and of the genius of the institutions of our country. Native capacity, united with a definite purpose, conscientious integrity, and a persevering energy, overcomes all early disadvantages, surmounts all obstacles, and achieves success; where others, whom the world calls favored of fortune, would falter, and make no record, except of their own failure.

We may here recall for a moment, something of the labors and experiences of one who has been so widely known; one who went to the battle-field in the service of his country, in the war of 1812; one whose early sagacity, public spirit, and personal efforts, aided so largely in the completion of the public works of the State, as well as in the development of the mineral resources of his own native State of Pennsylvania. One who, from time to time, has been called by his fellow-citizens to fill stations of great responsibility. And in these, his earnest, useful labors, and unswerving fidelity to the trusts committed to his hands, were conspicuous, and will

not be forgotten. Warm in his friendships, affable and kindly in address, decided in his convictions, an advocate for true economy, plainness, and simplicity of life, we may hope that his example will not be lost to society, or to those who are to follow him in the great field of human activity.

Discriminating in his benefactions, the truly needy were never intentionally turned empty away. And the institutions of religion shared liberally from his hands. To his unsolicited generosity, the church of which he was a member has been laid under great obligations, in the erection of this edifice, by which, as often expressed by him, it was his object permanently to aid the cause of true religion. And we bow in sorrow this day, to the mysterious Providence, which has called for the first occupation of this house of worship, for the services of his burial! In his last illness, in which he suffered much, patience and submission to the will of God were manifest; relying, as he did, by faith, on the great Redeemer of mankind. And with tender expressions of affection toward his family and friends, tranquil and calm, he was released into his rest!—and now, expressing our sympathy with his family and friends,

in their bereavement, we commend them to the grace of God, in this time of affliction! May the consolation of His Spirit be abundantly manifested! And let us all receive the admonition, "Be ye, also, ready!"

Prayer was offered by Rev. Mr. Harlow, of Bath, and after singing,

"We've no abiding city here," &c.

the procession was formed, and proceeded to the family burial-place, in Glenwood Cemetery, a large portion of the congregation being present to witness the concluding service at the grave. A massive monument, of beautiful Italian marble, marks the place of his burial.



# A MEMORIAL DISCOURSE,

DELIVERED APRIL 5, 1869,

ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF

## HON. JOHN MAGEE.

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1 COR. III. 8, 9.

“NOW HE THAT PLANTETH AND HE THAT WATER-ETH ARE ONE: AND EVERY MAN SHALL RECEIVE HIS OWN REWARD ACCORDING TO HIS OWN LABOR. FOR WE ARE LABORERS TOGETHER WITH GOD.”

WHEN it pleased God to give to man a revelation of His will, He did not limit that revelation to His word. That word, Divinely authenticated, does, indeed, make known His will, in statutes, in parental instructions, in warnings, in promises, in

prophecy, and history. His work of creation is a glorious revelation of His power, wisdom, and goodness. His work of providence is also a constant revelation of His presence and of His purposes. And the operation of His grace in the hearts of men, is a continued mighty display of His perfections. And as we are to expect that He will continue to manifest His presence and His attributes, in and through every part of His works, it may be said that revelation will never be finished, in all coming ages; for we may hope to witness some new and more glorious disclosure of His perfections, as one grand era of His government after another shall be opened, throughout all eternity to come; for His perfections are infinite and exhaustless. This world is a scene of mighty, unceasing activities. Great forces in nature reveal themselves in multiplied forms. God is a

mighty worker. The physical power that turns the great globe on its axis, and that propels it in its orbit round the sun, oppresses our minds by its vastness. The force of winds and waves is terrible to contemplate. Plants and trees grow, under a mysterious impulse imparted by the Great Creator. The heaving of the lungs, and the circulation of the blood, in man and other living creatures, is a power, incessant in its exercise and wondrously diversified in its application. In all these things, the mystery of the Divine presence is indicated. Man may co-operate with the established laws of nature, as the appointed means of producing his sustenance from the bosom of the earth. Refusing or neglecting so to do, would be fatal to him. According to the history of the Divine government over the human race, since the loss of Eden, the earth no longer yields spontaneously the

needed supply for the wants of man. But he is called upon to put forth his own efforts; to employ means; and in so doing, he comes near to his great Benefactor, and works with Him.

The trade winds that sweep across the ocean, contributing to the essential qualities of the atmosphere, and aiding the commerce of all enlightened nations, belong to that class of forces which are maintained directly by the will of the Creator. Of these, man may avail himself. He may co-operate with them for his own well-being, though he can not resist them, and has no control over them. And thus, if we search creation round, we shall be led to contemplate God as a Being of ceaseless activity. He makes Himself known as engaged always in His great work of creation, providence, and grace. In any just sense, therefore, in which man may imitate God's example, *or*

*work with Him*, in any of His appointed methods, to secure results needful to himself, or provided for in the Divine counsels—so far from being viewed as a servile position, or a degrading office, all the proper work of man should be regarded as dignified and ennobling. For it is ordained of God, as an instrumentality which He employs in fulfilling His own eternal purposes.

The text and its connection shows, that in the moral world, as in the natural, God works by means. Divine truth has been sent forth into the world; men are called and commissioned to publish it to their fellow-men. They address it to the ear. They seek to reach the heart. But God must also accompany it, by the power of His Spirit, to render it effectual: to give it a transforming, saving power. And the illustration employed by the inspired Apos-

tle,—of the sower, of him who watered the seed, and of the reaper, while it was God who gave the increase,—embraces two practical points, which apply to the whole field of human activity: Namely—

1. Man must co-operate with God in the use of means; and

2. A reward is promised according to every man's labor.

In the discussion of the first of these points, let it be premised that the Scriptures throughout represent God as employing infinite intelligence and power; as exercising a perfect foresight and control of all contingencies; as having established the relation of cause and effect; as having ordained the elements of Nature in their course; as having appointed to every particle of matter its place and office; and as controlling all the changes—organic, material, spiritual—which take place anywhere in the

universe. It is expressly declared that "His understanding is infinite." The Prophet vividly conceived of that tireless intellectual power by which He grasps all the affairs of His boundless empire, when he said: "Hast thou not known; hast thou not heard that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? There is no searching of His understanding."

Concerning Him of whom it is declared that "He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing;" that "He hath compassed the waters with bounds;" that "the pillars of Heaven tremble, and are astonished at His reproof;" that "by His spirit He hath garnished the heavens;" that "His hand hath formed the crooked serpent,"—of Him it is said, that these things are but "parts of His ways,—but the thunder of His power,

who can understand?" Volcanic fires that cause mighty upheavals of the earth's surface; subtle gases, or hidden chemical combinations in the depths of the ground, elaborating substances which are designed for specific uses in His Divine economy—all are obeying His sovereign will, who, by the agencies which He pleases to employ, "putteth forth His hand upon the rock, and overturneth the mountains by the roots;" who "cutteth out rivers among the rocks, and His eye seeth every precious thing." In His far-seeing conception of all that should properly appertain to the wants of man in a state of advanced civilization and culture, whether of necessity, or of general utility or ornament, He hath ordained "a vein for the silver, and a place for gold, where they find it." Discovered in due time, and made available by man, "iron is taken out of the earth; and brass is molten



out of the stone." And anticipating all the results of scientific research, in His word it had been written: "As for the earth, out of it cometh bread, and under it is turned up, as it were, fire." And concerning all that human minds conceive, or that human language represents by knowledge or wisdom, in His own eternity, "when He made a weight for the winds, and weighed the waters by measure: when He made a decree for the rain, and a way for the lightning of the thunder." "Then did He see it, and declare it; yea, He prepared it, and searched it out." And to Him, "there is no new thing under the sun."

No part of the revelation of God is more explicit than those portions of His word in which are set forth the ample provisions of His bounty, to meet the temporal wants of man, and to provide for his happiness; while yet, it is always implied

that man has his own active duty to perform. His own efforts are demanded, as a condition upon which the merciful arrangements of Providence are to be made available for his welfare. When God was about to bring His ancient people into the land of promise, He directed His servant Moses to describe it as "a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains that spring out of valleys and hills; a land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig-trees, and pomegranates; a land of olive oil and honey; a land in which thou shalt eat bread without scarceness, thou shalt not lack any thing in it; a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills *thou mayest dig brass*. But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is He that *giveth thee power to get wealth*."—(Deut. viii. 7, 8, 9, 18.) In the 107th Psalm, which contains a graphic rehearsal of God's providential dealings with

His people, the co-operative agencies of God in nature, and of man in his own legitimate sphere, are thus indicated: "He turneth the wilderness into a standing water, and dry ground into water-springs. And there He maketh the hungry to dwell, *that they may prepare a city for habitation; and sow the fields, and plant vineyards*, which may yield fruits of increase." And even in a state of primeval holiness, before sin had brought a curse upon the ground, and caused it to bring forth thorns and thistles, as one of the necessary and proper conditions of that exalted state of personal dignity and temporal happiness which our first parents enjoyed, it is said in the record, that the "Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden, *to dress it and keep it.*" The Providential law, under which health, long life, and the highest degree of prosperity and temporal happiness, are made to

depend upon the vigorous employment of all the mental and bodily powers, is, in itself, a sufficient indication of the Divine will, concerning the true position of man in the present state of existence. And if any additional instruction or admonition were needed, it is found in the positive assurance which His word furnished, that all persons in possession of health and ordinary capacity, who neglect or fail to put forth their own efforts to secure a livelihood, or to contribute to the welfare of their fellow-beings, are regarded, in His sight, as *unworthy of their own maintenance*, and might, as a just retribution, be prohibited from sharing His daily bounty. For thus it is written (2 Thess. iii. 10-12): "For even, when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any *would not work, neither should he eat*. For we hear that there are some which *walk disorderly, working not at*

*all*, but are busy bodies. Now them that are such, we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness *they work*, and eat their own bread." And as indicating what is required in a good example, and what is necessary in order to the safest and most honorable position in society, the same inspired writer has added: "Study to be quiet, and *to do your own business*, and to *work with your own hands*, as we commanded you; that ye may walk honestly toward them that are without; and that ye may have lack of nothing."—(1 Thess. iv. 11, 12.)

It is equally a part of God's providential purpose, that the accumulation of wealth shall be made to depend so largely on personal industry and economy; even as the practical knowledge and skill which are demanded in the process, must also be acquired by individual effort. We may claim that the

most remarkable illustrations of these truths, and in the greatest number of instances, have occurred in our own country; and for the reason that here, the greatest encouragement is held out to the true worker; that here the fairest field is offered, and the best assurance is given, that his labor will not be in vain. It would be easy to repeat a long list of names, now occupying the front rank of the great capitalists of the world, who commenced their business life without a dollar; and who, by patient toil and frugal fare, laid the foundations of their subsequent fortunes. We all know that poverty has its forbidding features. It has its obvious privations and trials. But it is by no means to be looked upon as an unmitigated evil. We are not apt to recollect the exemption which it secures from some forms of perilous temptations; from the cares and burdens of wealth, and especially from the fearfully

increased accountability to God and man, which wealth devolves upon him who possesses it. A clear conscience, a hearty willingness to do one's whole duty every day, and a well-founded trust in God will secure a large share of temporal happiness, and an honorable degree of personal usefulness, without a fortune. And according to the Divine word, this humbler position in life is most favorable to true piety, and has received many distinguishing tokens of the Divine favor. The wise and merciful purpose of God is thus indicated in this regard, when it is written: "Hath not God chosen the poor of this world, rich in faith, and heirs of a kingdom which He hath promised to them that love Him?" But poverty and wealth both have a place and an office assigned to them in the allotments of Providence, and their relations to each other may be more positive and intimate than is

generally observed. Since, in the Divine plans, there are objects to be accomplished which require the use of wealth as an instrumentality, it is to be looked for, that the legitimate and certain means of its accumulation will be under Providential supervision.

As a first truth relating to the subject, in His word and by His providence, God asserts his perfect ownership of all the wealth of the world; thus it is written: "The silver is mine and the gold is mine, saith the Lord."—(Hag. ii. 8.) "Every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills." "The world is mine, and the fullness thereof."—(Ps. cl. 10, 12.) And when he also declares, "All souls are mine."—(Ezek. xviii. 4.) When He requires of all men, to love Him and serve Him with all their heart, and with all their soul (Deut. xi. 13); with all their mind



and with all their strength (Mark xii. 3)—it is rendered clear, that whatever talents and natural capacities he has bestowed upon any man, He may rightfully require to be employed in His service; and also, under His Divine administration of the affairs of the world, all favorable circumstances and advantages which men are enabled to make available for their worldly prosperity and advancement, are subject to His control. And in the history of a man's life, it has often been shown, that motives have been brought to bear upon him, and that he has been led to pursue a given course unexpectedly; he has been guided as by a hand unseen, and has thus been trained for a particular department of effort; has escaped calamities; has been enabled to seize a favorable moment, which may have decided his fortune. And, on a candid review, in the exercise of a reverential spirit, he would ascribe these things

to the overruling providence of God. But let us not overlook the legitimate effect of poverty on a large class of minds. The experience and observation of mankind have taught that "poverty is a great sharpener of the wits;" that "necessity is the mother of invention." And though severe in her discipline, and bringing up her offspring upon spare diet, she imparts to them a vigorous constitution, and a determination to win, which are the pledges of their future success.

There is a just sense in which poverty is the means of wealth. In order to successful accumulation, habits of economy and industry must be formed. Complete self-control, coolness, untiring patience, and perseverance must be exercised. A man must acquire the capability of grasping an object and pursuing it without allowing his attention to be diverted; without being discour-

aged by any obstacle, or by small returns in the beginning; and willing to bide his time. And, in all ordinary cases, these things will not be found to unite in any other than the man who begins the world poor. No other man, in an equal degree, enters upon the conflict unencumbered; with his limbs free, with his faculties wide-awake, and self-reliant. When a man's resources are in himself, he need fear neither the fluctuations of the market, nor the dishonesty of other men. He has acquired a momentum which carries his vessel over all sand-bars. He has accumulated a capital which never depreciates. There is, thus, a true philosophy of accumulation. There is, also, a morality of accumulation. A sterling honesty, an unbending integrity, should be regarded as an indispensable requisite—as the regulator to a watch or the helm to a vessel. And when to these there are added a benevolent

aim,—a conscientious purpose to benefit mankind, and to honor God,—then it may be expected that Heaven will smile on those efforts, by which the far-seeing aims of Providence are to be developed, and through which the world is to be made better and happier.

Reprobating, as we should, the venality of the times; lamenting, as we do, whatever is adverse to sound morals, and equity in the state, or hostile to true religion, either in the methods of accumulation, or the use of money; nevertheless, as believers in the word of God, we abide firm in the conviction that He who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will, is infinitely competent to control the rapidly developing resources of this country; and we rest in a well-founded assurance, that He will, in His own time, render them completely available for the amelioration of the temporal condi-

tion of mankind, as well as for the spread of the gospel, and the extension of the kingdom of Christ throughout the world. All enlightened views of prophecy and of Christianity, as related to the developments of the present period, lead us to anticipate, that in all the changes, political and moral, that are hastening on, the agency of man, as a co-worker with God,—in all the departments of agriculture, commerce, manufactures, and legislation,—will assume greater importance and significance from year to year. He who has *effectively served his country*, in any of these departments, has, in a higher sense, *served his God*.

As believers in the true idea of progress, as indicated in the word and providence of God, we need be at no loss to discover intimations of the Divine purposes, like threads of gold, running through the whole woof of human affairs.

In that restored, perfected humanity, fore-determined as the glorious result of the triumph of the gospel in all lands, will be witnessed the recovery and more complete exercise of that "dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth," which God originally bestowed upon man; and then, also, as we may believe, will man have fulfilled what may be viewed as a Divine injunction to "subdue" the earth.

When the elements in nature shall, in a far higher degree, be rendered subservient; when the laws of life and health shall be known and obeyed; when, neither by cruel wars, nor by pestiferous vices, nor by any processes of *refined, fashionable homicide*, shall the human race be decimated,—then the family of man may be counted by millions, in place of its present thousands. Then,

also, the requirements of food, raiment, instruction, culture, or whatever else shall appertain to man's temporal well-being, may be easily met, when no waste is tolerated; when all the resources of the globe are rendered available, when all men harmoniously work together, and are, also, in their several spheres, "laborers together with God."

The watchword of the age, it is said, is progress. And the symbol of progress is machinery. Machinery looks to steam as its main reliance for motive power. And steam depends on fuel.

Thus fuel may be said to move the world. The operations of mining are thus placed in the very foreground of human activities; while yet, these, by a philosophical necessity, carry along with them every other branch of legitimate human industry,—the work of the hands and of the brain, each of

which, in their due place and proportion, are ordained of God.

Under the Divine economy, motive power is to be applied to mind, as well as to matter. The operation of what are commonly called motives upon individuals, is varied according to constitutional temperament and other circumstances, all which are, however, under Providential control. In a general view, the efforts of mankind are put forth in proportion to the results which they regard as most desirable, and which, with the greatest degree of confidence, they expect to reach. The largest number of earnest workers in the great field of human effort, set out with the hope of providing for the comfortable support of themselves and those who may be dependent upon them, as a primary motive. Many parents labor almost exclusively for the future welfare of their children, and shrink from no



effort or privation by which they may place them in favorable positions in society and provide amply for their happiness. It is a sad result, too often seen, that children do not always appreciate such efforts, or fulfill the expectations which have been so earnestly entertained on their behalf. Yet some there are who do, and by a noble life, bring honor to the names they bear, and gild the evening of the long and arduous lives of their parents with beams of joy. And that is a cheering reward of one's labor.

Some men desire to accumulate wealth for the sake of luxury and splendor, upon which they may have placed an extravagant estimate. The cases may be regarded as few indeed, of those who have been successful in obtaining the *means*, who have been satisfied with that as an *end*, or who have regarded it as an adequate reward for the

labor of accumulating. Few men have been found disposed to suspend their efforts, while engaged in a successful career, merely for the purpose of lavish enjoyment. And the instances are not rare, in which an actual retirement from business, with the expectation of realizing any such long-cherished anticipation, has resulted in sore disappointment. Men have found themselves impelled to return again to the field, having made the unexpected discovery, that, in the years of their active life, tastes and habits and associations have been formed, which can neither be transplanted into a new region, laid aside, or exchanged for others befitting a new line of life. Thus, while it may be said to be a general rule, that industry and economy, joined with integrity and a reasonable share of shrewdness and enterprise, are the conditions of success in the accumulation of wealth, and may be expected to secure

that result—yet, without some higher, nobler object than mere self-gratification, that, under the action of the providential law of God, no man may expect to feel himself rewarded for his toil. His increased treasures may bring him only such increased disquietudes and dissatisfaction as shall render him really incapable of enjoyment. And this is the actual condition of many. Some men set out in life with a cherished object of philanthropy in view; with a purpose to devote a liberal share of what they may acquire, for the moral welfare of their fellow-men. Noble examples of this kind will occur to your minds; and proof is not wanting, that such men have felt themselves more than rewarded by the result. We hazard nothing when we assert, that in the sense of the honor and privilege conferred upon them by the Great Benefactor, in permitting them to be the almoners of his

bounty, and in their pleasing anticipations of the benefits which have thus been secured to many of their fellow-beings throughout long years to come, they have an unfailing source of the purest satisfaction, unspeakably more valuable to them than any indulgence of pride or vain show, or any mere sensuous delights could be. There is a laudable ambition to attain skill and eminence in one's profession, to reach success by fair effort, and to earn a good reputation, and thus to deserve well of one's neighbors; and this all men should possess, in their several spheres. Whatever is worth doing at all, is worth doing in the best manner. As a matter of Christian obligation, it is our duty to do the best in our power, in every thing. The best service which we can render to our fellow-men, and to God, is the least which we can consistently offer to Him, or expect Him to accept. And we have the

fullest Scriptural assurance, that no faithful, conscientious effort, put forth under the influence of these views, will ever be in vain, or fail of its reward. A public officer who receives the free suffrages of his fellow-citizens, and voluntarily takes upon himself a solemn oath to execute faithfully the trusts committed to his hands, is a perjurer in the sight of God, and deserves the condemnation of his fellow-men, if he neglects his duty, or abuses the confidence reposed in him. But by fidelity and activity in his endeavors to promote the public welfare, he wins the admiration and calls forth the gratitude of his countrymen; and in the testimony of his own conscience, and a sense of the approbation of his God, he has a noble reward. Confessing, as we must, with shame and grief, the extent to which the public taste is vitiated, and the evidence of the weakened, corrupted public sentiment

of the times, every good and worthy example should be recognized and appreciated in a corresponding degree.

Whoever has met privation and toil manfully, has used economy and thrift and honesty and activity, and thus convinced his neighbors that he was worthy to be trusted as their public servant; has won his way, by fair and honorable effort, to an elevated position in the State, or to the possession of wealth by just and legitimate means; eating no man's bread for naught; taking no man's money without a fair equivalent; accepting and encouraging the generous rivalry of his fellows, and ready to lend a helping hand when it was needed—such men, by the verdict of all ingenuous minds, are worthy of that reward which they have earned for themselves. For at that human tribunal, where every man is judged by his peers, even in the midst of a growing degeneracy, personal worth is yet

acknowledged, and truth is still vindicated. And it belongs to us, to yield obedience to a great precept of the word of God, which commands us to "render to all their dues; tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; honor to whom honor." And in the great final adjudication, it will be seen that no good action, conscientiously performed, shall fail of its due reward.

One year ago, this day, it pleased God to remove from the midst of us, by the hand of death, one whose life furnished a practical illustration of the views presented in this discourse; and who, in so far as he was made an instrument in accomplishing important Providential ends, was a co-worker with God. He was a worker with the hands, and with the brain,—with all the intellectual capabilities conferred upon him; with the pecuniary means which he laboriously acquired, and by his personal influence. It

is not necessary, on this occasion, to repeat what has been so often and so emphatically said by the public press, and through other sources, concerning his personal industry, the energy and perseverance, the soundness of judgment, public spirit, and sterling integrity which he exhibited throughout his whole life. Nor is this memorial of him offered in response to any claims which he ever made to the possession of extraordinary excellences of character, or to exemption from the defects and frailties which are common to man. For he was ready to acknowledge his own deficiencies and errors, whenever they were brought to his knowledge, and to blame himself if he became conscious that he had been led into any wrong. When we justly estimate the results of constitutional peculiarities and of education, embracing, as it does, all early habits and associations, we are all



brought more nearly upon a level than we are apt to consider; and under the far-seeing providence of God, men are raised up as instruments to accomplish objects which they did not themselves contemplate, and which may not become fully apparent during their life-time; but which are to be developed in years to come. And it belongs to God's sovereign wisdom to select and adapt them to the attainment of these objects. As the ax, in order to efficient service, must be both sharp and heavy, and must then be wielded by strong arms, so all great enterprises among men demand adequate agencies; and when these extend beyond the range of our own experience, we are the less capable of sympathizing with them, or appreciating them. The actual strain upon the powers of endurance—upon the patience, the memory, and, indeed, upon all the physical capabilities of the man,

which are often experienced, are greater than can really be estimated. The daily pressure of great anxieties, the loss of rest, all acting upon the brain and nervous system, rendered already too excitable, and over-taxed; and the actual suffering, mental and bodily, which are thus induced;—these things, to which many are strangers, entered largely into the experience of our deceased friend; and, according to human judgment, must have tended to hasten the termination of a life which had been characterized by such remarkable activity. And yet, may we not say, that the great objects of his life had been attained? Was not his life a success, in an eminent degree? Even though to family and friends, and to the great business interests with which he was identified, and to the interests of benevolence, his death has been felt as a sore bereavement and a public loss.

Warned, as he was, by repeated attacks

of illness and by increasing infirmities, during the last two years, he repeatedly expressed his conviction that his work was drawing to a close. And though the field of his efforts was opening more and more widely, and he had in contemplation measures for the promotion of education and religion, as well as for the enlargement and more successful prosecution of business enterprises,—yet reverently regarding the Divine administration under which “a man’s bounds are appointed which he can not pass,” the summons which called him hence brought the assurance that his work was done. And it found him willing to relinquish it, and ready to yield himself to the will of God. His last illness was attended with much suffering, which he bore with patience. His power of speech being, in a great degree, paralyzed, he was unable to communicate his thoughts and feelings, except to a very lim-

ited extent; yet he clearly indicated his unwavering trust in the Lord Jesus, as the Great Redeemer; depending alone upon His grace and merits. The reading of the word of God in his hearing was a great solace to him; and many hours were thus spent, listening to some friendly voice, as the great truths of the Gospel were repeated. He took an affectionate leave of his family and friends; and in a state of complete composure and apparent peace, he entered upon his final rest.

The funeral occasion you will all recall; when this house, then in an unfinished state, was prepared to receive the great congregation assembled from our own community, and from abroad, to pay the last duties of respect to his memory. Though never permitted to come hither, to join with us in the worship of God within these walls which were reared by his munificence, yet we ac-

accompanied his mortal remains here, where it was most appropriate that the solemn services of his burial should be attended: and from hence to the peaceful spot in yonder grounds, where they now repose.

I deem it not inappropriate to the occasion, to refer to his example and influence, and to some of the views which he entertained. This may be considered as due from us, as a church and congregation who have been so largely indebted to his liberality, and in justice to his memory; while, at the same time, we would recognize and honor the grace of God which was manifested in him.

Baptized in his infancy, and taught in his childhood the truths of religion as set forth in the standards of the church of which he was a member, his regular attendance upon Divine worship on the Sabbath and respect for religious institutions charac-

terized his youth and earlier manhood, though he did not become the subject of decided religious experience till the year 1859, when he made a public profession of his faith and united with the Presbyterians of Bath. He was a liberal contributor for the maintenance of religion, and a regular earnest attendant upon public worship, even when enfeebled and suffering from ill-health. In this, his example was a reproof to many. And being himself a firm believer in the great distinguishing doctrines of the Gospel, he desired to hear them plainly and faithfully preached to the people. His sentiments on some points, which might be regarded as peculiar, were not so much the result of reading and familiarity with the received opinions and practice of others, as of his own observation, and of impressions which he had received under special circumstances. No one who knew him well could doubt

that he was conscientious and sincere in the views in which he differed from others. And while he was outspoken and decided, he accorded to others the same right to their opinions which he claimed for himself. During the times of great excitement and agitation which prevailed throughout the country within the last five or six years connected with the war, he deprecated what he regarded as an improper mingling of religion with politics; and he considered the introduction of partisan questions or political discussions into the pulpit as detrimental to religion and injurious to the church, especially from the liability that strifes and alienations would thereby be caused, and that attempts might thus be made to control the action of men by mere ecclesiastical dictation, or to secure secular interests by an unwarrantable use of religious influence. It was his desire, that the House

of God should be regarded with reverence as a place set apart for Divine worship, and for the promotion of objects purely sacred, to the exclusion of all things which are not calculated to promote true religion. Plain and unostentatious in his tastes, he looked with disapprobation upon the use of money for extravagant display; and all waste, either of time or money, all indolence, thriftlessness, vicious habits, or any species of dishonesty, were by him severely reprehended. Those who were really needy and suffering through misfortune, found in him a ready friend. And it may be said with truth, that no such case known to him, ever appealed to him in vain. Many pleasing instances are on record, of deserving, industrious young men, and others, whom he regarded as trustworthy, and who were in need of pecuniary aid, who were liberally assisted by him in the commencement of



business; and many such persons, as well as the widow and the orphan, will speak his name with gratitude in years to come.

The subject of giving for the promotion of the great Christian enterprises of the day, had, at different times, engaged his attention, and was a frequent topic of conversation. And he evinced his reverence toward the word of God, and his desire for its circulation throughout the world, by a donation to the American Bible Society of thirty thousand dollars. And his view of the importance of a Christian literature and the circulation of evangelical books and tracts in different languages, was expressed by the donation of the like sum of thirty thousand dollars to the American Tract Society. Nor were the poor and needy forgotten. Even in his last illness he directed one thousand dollars to be appropriated for their relief, intrusting this fund to a judicious friend,

with directions to appropriate it in small sums where it should be found most needed.

It is a pleasing thought, that while he rests from all the labors of this world, the great work of evangelizing the earth will still be helped forward by his instrumentality. Ninety thousand copies of the Bible, or three millions of copies of the New Testament, and many millions of pages of religious books and tracts, can be put in circulation by the means which he furnished. And Divine truth, thus diffused, may reach and bless the hearts of millions of his fellow-men. But, in the erection of this church edifice, his readiness to co-operate with officers and members of this church and congregation, in their efforts to promote the kingdom of Christ, was especially exhibited.

Declaring his own attachment to the doctrinal standards of the Presbyterian

Church, he, nevertheless, respected the conscientious views of Christians of other denominations. And looking beyond the mere outward form to the substance, he repeatedly and feelingly expressed his desire that the erection of this building should be a permanent means of promoting true religion.

It was his desire that the Gospel of Jesus Christ might here permanently be preached with plainness and fidelity, having in view the salvation of souls as the great end to be attained. And, in accepting this great trust, it becomes us to appreciate the corresponding responsibility which is devolved upon us.

The original sum of money which it had been the purpose of our deceased friend to appropriate, having, with the increased expense of building, proved insufficient for the completion of the plan, he generously met the additional expenditure; and had

also proposed further outlay in the improvement of the grounds, and for other purposes, when he was overtaken by his last illness. The heirs of his estate, however, in honor of his memory, with a generous promptness appropriated a sum sufficient to carry out these plans. And during the year now drawing to a close, since this house was dedicated to the service of God, we have witnessed the entire completion of the work. And with greatly increased numbers, with cheering prospects before us for the future, we appear in these courts to-day, to offer up thanksgivings to God for all that he permitted our deceased friend and brother to accomplish in behalf of this good design; to pay a suitable tribute to his memory, and renewedly to seek the Divine blessing upon this house, and upon all who may, from time to time, worship within these walls, in all coming years. May

the name of God be glorified! May thousands redeemed and saved through the grace of the Gospel, in future years be permitted to look down from the heavenly heights to this sacred place, as having been to them “none other than the House of God and the gate of Heaven!”













## BUILDING OF THE CHURCH.

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THE ceremony of laying the corner-stone took place April 11, 1867. A large congregation was assembled. After singing and prayer, an appropriate address was delivered by Rev. G. C. Curtis, D.D., of Elmira; a box containing a history of the formation and progress of the church, &c., a copy of the Confession of Faith, a list of the officers and members of the church, the names of the architect and builders, a copy of the Bible, newspapers, &c., was deposited in the stone by the pastor; and the services were concluded with prayer by Rev. D. Chichester, and singing the Doxology. Rev. Messrs. Carr, Russell, and Atwood were present.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDING.

BY A. J. WARNER, ARCHITECT, OF ROCHESTER.

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The new Presbyterian church, at Watkins, N. Y., is built in the Romanesque style of architecture. The foundations were laid in the spring of 1866, and the edifice completed, ready for occupancy, in May, 1868.

The walls above the basement are of brick, with limestone dressings. The main building, containing the auditorium, vestibule, and gallery over same, is 63 feet in width, and 100 feet in length, with a seating capacity for 750 persons, exclusive of gallery. The gallery extends across the front end, over the front vestibule, with seating room for 150 persons. The chapel on the rear, forming an L, is 36 feet in width and 78 feet in length, two stories high: the lower floor containing lecture-room, 32 x 44, with

seating for 230 persons; two parlors, 15 x 19 and 12 x 19, with sliding doors between; and a large entrance hall 10 x 27, with an easy flight of open stairs to the upper floor, which contains Sunday-school room, 32 x 50, with seating room for 300, and infant-school room, 20 x 24, connected with the same by sliding sash doors. The lower story of the chapel is 12 feet ceiling, and the second story, 19 feet ceiling; the auditorium, 32 feet ceiling, in height. The walls and ceilings are all finished in fresco. The pulpit and rostrum is in a recessed chancel, formed by projecting out on one side of rostrum for an organ room, and the other side for a pastor's study.

The wood-work for the interior finish is of chestnut lumber, with oil finish. The roofs of the entire building are covered with slate. The tower is placed at the right-hand corner of the front, and is 16

feet square, built of brick, and 92 feet in height; finished with a curved conical spire 40 feet in height; making the entire height 132 feet. The foundations were built on white oak piles, nine feet in length, driven their entire length below the basement floor. There is a basement under the entire building, eight feet in height. The windows are all of ornamental stained glass. The building is thoroughly ventilated, and warmed perfectly with hot-air furnaces. The church lot embraces an area of 25,000 square feet. This is inclosed with a heavy wrought-iron fence, with stone posts. The side-walks on both street fronts, and the entrances, are laid with stone flagging.

## THE DEDICATION SERVICES.

THE DEDICATION SERVICES TOOK PLACE ON THE 14TH  
DAY OF MAY, 1868.

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REV. GEORGE D. STEWART, of Burlington, Iowa, formerly pastor of the Presbyterian church of Bath, preached the sermon from Heb. ii. 3. An historical statement concerning the organization of the Presbyterian Church of Watkins, and of the erection of former houses of worship, accompanied by resolutions adopted by the Board of Trustees, relative to the decease of Hon. John Magee, &c., &c., was read by the pastor. Rev. Messrs. D. Chichester, of Burdett; C. C. Carr, of Horseheads; Dr. Goertner, of Ham College; P. Stryker, of New York City; D. C. Sackett, of Rock Stream; and D.

Magee, of Penn-Yan, were present and took part in the services. Rev. L. M. Miller, D. D., of Ogdensburg, also formerly pastor at Bath, preached in the evening. In both these able and appropriate discourses suitable references were made to the life and services of the deceased. The occasion was one of deep interest to the church and congregation, as well as to many friends who were present, and to the community.

The closing part of Rev. Mr. Stewart's discourse was in the following words:—

CLOSE OF THE SERMON FROM HEBREWS II. 3.

*"How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?"*

To the worship of God, and to the proclamation of this great salvation, this holy and beautiful house is to be consecrated by a solemn dedication to-day. It was for this purpose, so dear to his heart, that he through whose munificence this temple has been reared, bestowed his gifts. And if she, who as a faithful Christian wife through so many years, sought



to lead him to the Saviour, and who with him forms a part of that great cloud of witnesses, which, from the Paradise of God, behold how we run the race our blessed Lord has set before us, is a witness of this solemn ceremonial, I know that she equally approves the gift and the purpose. For it was ever the desire of them both, as was well known to me, in a pastoral intercourse of eight years, that the house of God should always be a place of prayer and praise; a calm and holy retreat from the prejudices and passions of this world, and of the kingdoms and commonwealths of this world. Both placed a very high importance upon the preservation of the sacredness of sacred places and sacred things. And for years, while solemnly thinking upon this great salvation, and upon his own duty, it was one of his fears, that he might not be able to honor as he wished, amid the din and distraction of business, the Christian profession he desired to make.

Nine years ago last Sabbath, it was my privilege to receive him, with more than forty others, into the communion of the Church of Christ, as the first fruits of an outpouring of the spirit of Christ, by which more than eighty persons were converted. It is one

of these incidents which a pastor treasures up about his flock, that at the first communion at Bath, in which I, as the young and newly-inducted pastor, ministered, Mrs. Magee became a member of that church, and at the last, her husband, for whom she had offered so many prayers. Leaving Bath immediately after that eventful communion, and, after a season of rest, removing to the far West, there engaging actively in missionary work over a wide field, our intercourse was continued chiefly by correspondence, and on their part by the continuance of the same course of kind acts they had done for me while their pastor. It is, therefore, with the purest joy that I have learned from the pastor of this church, and from the family, of the comfort and peace he enjoyed in the Lord Jesus, during his sickness, and especially during this last mortal illness. Husband and wife are now re-united; they died in the Lord: they sleep in Jesus; and to-day I thank God for their Christian faith and hope; for the many lessons which that devoted mother gave to her children in the holy Scriptures in her own chamber, and which will yet, I trust, bear abundant fruit unto eternal life; and for the many works of charity and Christian beneficence

which do follow them. This beautiful church will remain, in one sense, the monument of both; of him who gave the gift, and of her who was so instrumental in leading him to consecrate himself and his to his Saviour. It will remain a monument of their love to the Lord Jesus and His cause; of their desire that here, from Sabbath to Sabbath, this community, their children and children's children should meet to pray and praise, and hear of "the great salvation."



## APPENDIX.

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### ADDRESS TO THE ELECTORS OF THE TWENTY- EIGHTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT.

FELLOW CITIZENS:—

And first in importance is the proper support of national dignity and character in the relations of peace and amity with all nations. To sustain these, a scrupulous and inflexible abstinence from all alliances or confederations with other nations is indispensable. Insulated in our situation, and dissimilar in our forms of government, laws, habits, and interests from all other people, our circumstances require a policy as distinct and different from other countries. If we remain untrammelled by foreign alliances, we can, without offense to any, choose

for ourselves the measure best calculated to advance our own interests, unfettered by the views and policy of other nations; and by an assiduous cultivation of the arts of peace, attain to certain prosperity and greatness. But involve us in entangling alliances abroad, fetter us by connection with other countries, subject us to all the fluctuations of policy and interest to which they are exposed, and a flood of evils will rush in upon us, ruinous to all our prospects and advantages.

The general diffusion of the benefits of education among our people is a measure of vital importance. Intelligence is the rock upon which our Constitution and government are founded; sustained and supported by the moral sense of the community, they can only be perpetuated by the general dissemination of information among our citizens. It is, therefore, the duty of government to establish free seminaries of learning in every part of the country, equally accessible to all classes, the poor and the rich, that their benefits may be enjoyed by all; and the resources of the nation can not be applied to any purpose more beneficial.

The great departments of industry, agriculture,

manufactures, and commerce alternately demand the fostering care of government, which by cherishing each in its turn, ought to encourage and sustain them all in equal prosperity. For the protection of the latter, fleets have been fitted out and foreign embassies supported by the wisdom and justice of our government. But the depressed state of some of our manufactures and the agricultural interest, imperiously demand the interposition of government in their favor. The subject of internal improvements is not less important than any other which has been mentioned. The construction of roads and canals is of such great and manifest advantage to society, that their encouragement has always been a leading feature in the policy of the most enlightened countries; the benefits resulting from them to agriculture and commerce, in time of peace, by the reduction of the expenses of transportation and the ease and freedom of intercourse, and the advantages of direct and speedy communication between all parts of the nation in time of war, evidence the wisdom of such policy. The difficulties experienced by the government during the late war, have called its attention to the necessity of constructing a great national

road from the capital to Buffalo. This road must necessarily pass through our district, and therefore is a most interesting project to us.

The improvement of the navigation of the Alleghany and Susquehanna rivers, rising within our district, either by canals taken from them, or a slack-water navigation of the streams themselves, is also a subject of great importance, and demands the present notice of our legislators. The liberal appropriation of the public money to these great objects, while a faithful regard to retrenchments and economy prevents all useless expenditure, can not fail to advance us as a people to the highest prosperity.

I have thus, fellow-citizens, disclosed to you, as concisely and generally as possible, my views of the course of policy best adapted to promote our welfare; and should they coincide with your sentiments, you have the fullest assurances of my faithful attention to your interests, if elected to represent you. Our interests are completely identified; the little property that I have saved from my hard earnings is scattered through the district; and upon the construction of the State and National roads, and the improvement of the navigation of our rivers,



much of my future prospects depend. It is, therefore, unnecessary for me to say more on the subject than to declare that, if honored by your confidence, I will spare no exertions to deserve your approbation.

JOHN MAGEE.

BATH, *Oct.* 14, 1826.



## BUILDING OF THE ERIE RAILWAY.

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BROOKLYN, *February* 18, 1869.

Rev. F. S. HOWE :

*Dear Sir,*—Your letter finds me but too happy to contribute my mite to the Memorial Discourse, which, you inform me, is designed to embrace a sketch of the important events in the life of the late Hon. John Magee. I have to regret, however, that I have treasured up so few of the many acts of his, which strongly impressed my mind at the time of our most intimate acquaintance, commencing with the year 1840, and continuing up to the completion of the New York and Erie Railroad in 1851. In 1840, Mr. Magee and his partner, Judge Cook, prompted by a desire to see substantial progress made in the construction of the western division of the road, became contractors for the work on that division. Early in the year 1842, the three millions loaned by the State to the road became exhausted, and the company failed, owing a large

amount to them, and to its other contractors, who, having received for their work about one-third in stock, we were not only the largest creditors, but the largest stockholders; and upon two or three of the heaviest contractors devolved a large share of the duty of resuscitating the company. It was at this trying period in the history of the road, that the powers of Mr. Magee's mind most attracted my attention. I found him fully equal to the occasion. The company made an assignment at once, but lest there might be some slip in the proceedings, and the property of the company fall into the hands of hostile creditors, a friendly judgment was given to Mr. Magee and his partner, with which they protected the property on the western division not covered by the State mortgage. A like judgment was given to my partner and myself, and we protected the property on the eastern division. Two years after, these judgments were satisfied; we, together with other creditors, receiving in payment certificates of indebtedness of the company, payable in five years. The winter of 1843 found Mr. Magee active in obtaining the removal of the State lien of three millions upon the road, spending much of his time

at Albany, urging upon the Legislature the necessity of the measure; his legislative experience, extensive acquaintance with public men, and his force of character, made him, in the estimation of the friends of the road, an indispensable advocate of the bill. Its passage at the close of the session improved greatly the prospects of the road, but much yet remained to be done. Confidence in the road had to be revived, which was not an easy task in those early days of railroads. Meetings of the stockholders and friends of the road were held along the line during the summer, in which our deceased friend always took a prominent part. A change in the direction this year was an important event: it was brought about by the late James G. King, who influenced prominent men to come into the direction, and by the determination of Mr. Magee and myself, we controlling at the time the necessary amount of stock to make the election sure, this direction, save a dash made at it the next fall, held possession until the road was opened to Dunkirk in 1851. Just previous to the opening of the road to Binghamton in 1847, the company again found its means exhausted, and to maintain its credit, keep up the

hopes of its friends, and reach the promising business of the rich valleys of the Chemung and its tributaries, some new scheme was necessary, all the devices then known for carrying on such a work having been used to their utmost limit. New subscriptions to the stock could not be obtained; new indebtedness could not be incurred, because the laws of the State forbade railroad corporations creating a debt beyond the amount of the capital stock actually paid in, and that point had been reached. At this juncture Mr. Magee was very appropriately called upon by the company to lend a helping hand, and responded, together with those who became associated with him as contractors, by suggesting what seemed to be not only the best, but well nigh the only solution of the difficult problem. After a good deal of deliberation, it was finally determined to extend the road from Binghamton to Corning, a distance of seventy-eight miles, on the strength of a novel security, viz., by the issue of "Income Bonds," the company pledging nothing more than the net income of the business on so much of the road as should be constructed by their use, in payment for materials furnished and work done; this plan

contemplated a strong firm of contractors to execute the work, as it was known that the bonds would not sell in the market, and that the company, in its feeble condition, could not borrow money upon them; in a word, the projectors of the scheme expected to be held responsible for its execution, by taking a contract for building the seventy-eight miles of road. During the year, but after we had graded the road to Owego and received in payment some \$300,000 of these bonds, the Legislature passed a general railroad law, which repealed the embarrassing provisions of previous acts forbidding the contracting of debts beyond the amount of capital stock paid in. This opening was at once seized upon by both directors and contractors, and by agreement the income bonds we had received up to that date were surrendered, and a second mortgage, to secure \$3,000,000 of bonds, was put upon the entire road, a little less than one-half being pledged for the payment of our work, and the balance or \$1,700,000 appropriated to pay off the floating debt of the company, and to extend the road from Corning to Hornellsville. We opened the road to Elmira in 1848, and completed our contract and the road to

Corning in 1849, and I think I may add with entire safety, that all the benefits promised on the part of the contractors, and all the expectations cherished on the part of the company, in regard to this extension of the road, were fully realized.

This brief and unvarnished sketch may, and doubtless will, seem tame to you, looking from the present stand-point of railroad achievements in our country, and to appreciate the earnest thought, the forecast and heroic fortitude, evinced by Mr. Magee in the prominent part he took in the construction of the New York and Erie Railroad; you will have to remember how few were the experiences and how feeble were the lights to guide the public-spirited and enterprising men at that early period in the history of railroad undertakings. I do not know that you desire any additional hints from me in regard to the peculiar structure of Mr. Magee's mind, as it manifested itself in the prime of his manhood, and will only say that it was singularly mercurial, and still very comprehensive, and that he used his great powers for the good of others as well as himself. Respectfully yours,

J. S. T. STRANAHAN.



## BUFFALO, NEW YORK, AND ERIE RAILWAY.

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BEFORE the location of the New York and Erie Railroad was finally settled upon through the county of Steuben, Francis Wilson Paul, Esq., of Canandaigua, with other parties, were desirous of procuring the construction of a railroad from Canandaigua, which should connect with the New York and Erie at some point in Steuben County.

Mr. Paul visited this county, and made strenuous efforts to procure subscriptions of stock, and the right of way through the county to Painted Post. Mr. Magee then stood high in the opinion of the directors of the New York and Erie Company, and expressed the opinion strongly, that, by proper effort, the line of the New York and Erie road could be located up the valley of the Cohorton; and relying upon his judgment in that respect, the citizens on the line of the proposed road from Canandaigua declined to favor the construction of that road, and the enterprise over the route through Steuben County was

abandoned. Mr. Paul and his friends turned their attention to another route on their road, and the result was the construction of the railroad from Elmira to Canandaigua. The efforts of Mr. Magee and his friends proved ineffectual to secure the location of the Erie Railroad up the Cohorton valley, and the inhabitants of that valley were in a fair way of being left entirely without railroad facilities. As this result was in some considerable degree brought about by the confidence which had been placed in the judgment of Mr. Magee, he was unwilling to leave his neighbors in that condition, and he set himself to work to remedy the evil.

He was well known to be a man of great energy, fertile in resources, of large means, and had also largely the confidence of men of wealth and business capacity. After a full examination of the whole matter, he decided to procure the organization of a company, for the construction of a railroad from Painted Post, in the county of Steuben, to Buffalo, in the county of Erie; and, in June, 1850, the necessary articles for the incorporation of the Buffalo and Cohorton Valley Railroad Company were drawn, and vigorous measures prosecuted for

obtaining subscriptions to the capital stock, which was fixed at \$1,400,000. The construction of the work was at once entered upon, and it was prosecuted with all the speed and energy necessary for its early completion, and for a time the prospect was that it would prove successful as a pecuniary operation, as well as add materially to the wealth of the country through which it passed, by furnishing an easy and speedy means of transport of agricultural and other productions to a market. The inhabitants along the line of the road for a time subscribed freely to the stock, but the construction for a considerable portion of the way was over an uneven country, requiring a larger expenditure than was originally contemplated, and the stockholders finally became wearied with making advances, and the company was at last compelled to resort to the unsafe expedient of raising money by mortgage of its road to prosecute the work. The road, then uncompleted, was mortgaged for a million of dollars, to secure bonds of the company to that amount, which were sold at a discount averaging about eighteen per cent.; and the funds thus raised were expended in the further prosecution of the work,

but were insufficient to complete it. Frequent meetings of the stockholders, and others interested in completing the road, were held at various points on the line, with a view of inducing such persons to contribute further aid to the work, in the hope that it might be completed, well stocked, and placed in good running order. Mr. Magee attended these meetings, and urged, at all times, that the money should be raised by the friends of the road to complete it; insisting, that if it was so done, and the road finished without compelling the company to raise money at a sacrifice, that the investment would prove a remunerative one, as well as decidedly beneficial to the general interests of the country. The result was that the more sanguine friends of the work contributed of their means; but there was no such full and prompt response to these calls as was necessary to insure success. I recollect that at one of the last of these meetings Mr. Magee was present, and addressed it. He insisted, that if the money could be raised on the line of the road, to complete it without compelling the company to resort to means for raising it which would involve a sacrifice, that it would ultimately

repay its cost; but if more money was to be raised by mortgage, for that purpose, at the usual rates at which railroad bonds were then sold, although the road could be completed in that way, still it would be at a ruinous sacrifice, and the road would be ultimately sold to pay the mortgages, and the stockholders would lose what they had already invested. He then stated the amount he held of the stock, some \$60,000, and said that if the company was compelled to resort to a further mortgage to complete the road, it should never be said that he made any thing out of it; and if it should be sold on the mortgages, he would not be a party to the purchase of it,—he would share the fate of the other stockholders, and lose what he had invested in it. These appeals to raise money were ineffectual; a further mortgage was resorted to; the bonds were sold at a large discount, and the road was completed, stocked and put in good running order. At the time this was accomplished, the road was so largely encumbered, as to preclude almost the possibility of running it successfully, and the result was that the interest on the mortgages was unpaid. Proceedings were commenced for their foreclosure in Dec., 1855,

the road passed into the hands of a receiver, and was finally sold on the mortgage, in 1857, and purchased in for the benefit of the bondholders. True to his declarations, Mr. Magee declined to have any thing to do with the purchase of the road at such sale, and has never since had any thing to do with it.

Respectfully yours,

DAVID RUMSEY.













